

AHFC Rental Assistance for Persons Displaced Due to Domestic Violence - Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP) **FY2022 Request: \$1,500,000**
Reference No: 60777

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety
Category: Health/Human Services
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** James Wiedle
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2021 - 06/30/2026 **Contact Phone:** (907)330-8359

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The purpose of this authorization is to: Provide a referral-based transitional housing assistance program, the Empowering Choice Housing Program (ECHP), to meet the housing needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

Funding:	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	Total
1139 AHFC Div	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000
Total:	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,000,000

☐ State Match Required
 ☐ One-Time Project
 ☐ Phased - new
 ☐ Phased - underway
☒ Ongoing
 0% = Minimum State Match % Required
☐ Amendment
☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Sec5 Ch1 SLA2020 P66 L12 HB205 \$1,500,000
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2019 P6 L3 SB2002 \$1,500,000
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2018 P9 L20 SB142 \$1,500,000
 Sec1 Ch1 SLA2017 P7 L14 SB23 \$1,500,000
 Sec1 Ch2 SLA2016 P6 L28 SB138 \$1,500,000

Project Description/Justification:

Rental Assistance for Persons Displaced Due to Domestic Violence addresses the needs of homeless or near-homeless families who are victims of domestic violence or sexual assault. These same families might otherwise qualify economically for the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. However, because demand for vouchers far exceeds the supply, the targeted families are unlikely to receive assistance in time to address their immediate needs. These funds will combine with up to \$1,000,000 of federal Department of Housing and Urban Development funding to fully-fund the 214 vouchers. AHFC will administer the funds through the same mechanism and locations as the federal Housing Choice Voucher program.

AHFC is the federally authorized agency responsible for administration of the Alaska Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance program. Congress appropriates funding through HUD, distributed by formula among public housing authorities. The HUD allocation of vouchers to Alaska

consists of 4,397 regular vouchers and another 1,061 special program vouchers. Eligible families are those whose family income is below fifty-percent of Area Median Income (AMI). Nearly all families admitted by AHFC are at or below 30 percent of AMI, which is below the federal poverty line.

The Empowering Choice Program (ECHP) is a partnership program with Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA), and Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), whereby AHFC provides transitional tenant-based rental assistance to families referred by ANDVSA.

The primary mission of ANDVSA is to represent victim services programs assists programs in providing referrals for program participants based on their expertise. The primary duty of the CDVSA is to implement, maintain, and monitor Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault crisis intervention and prevention programs in consultation with authorities in the field. CDVSA approved programs shall provide referrals of program participants to AHFC (DVSA Programs).

The projected outcomes include:

- Rental assistance for up to 214 households statewide who are displaced from permanent housing or otherwise at risk of displacement because of a recent or reoccurring instance of domestic violence as defined by Alaska Statute, Section 18.66.990(3); and,
- Housing stability for families occupying shelters, families living in abusive households, and families living in places not meant for habitation.